THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, various services provided by MTNL and BSNL are generally satisfactory as compared to those rendered by private companies. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) service and Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile service of MTNL and BSNL are working satisfactorily and are, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The service is comparable with that being provided by other operators. Broadband services of MTNL and BSNL are also meeting the benchmarks prescribed by TRAI except, marginally, in a few circles of BSNL on some parameters. However, MTNL and BSNL are continuously optimizing their network for better performance.

(c) and (d) In the present day multi operator telecom industry, subscribers have their own reasons for withdrawing/staying with their connections. Some of the customers have withdrawn their landline connections due to migration from landline to mobile telephone. Landline services are, sometimes, adversely affected due to constraints beyond control of MTNL and BSNL like prolonged breakdown due to various reasons such as road widening, cable thefts, cable faults, etc. However, there is positive growth in WLL and GSM mobile connections and MTNL and BSNL total customer base are increasing every year. MTNL and BSNL are taking lot of measures to improve their market share and Quality of Service by way of expansion of network, Customer Care, provision of Value Added Services, revision of tariff etc.

Availability of 3G spectrum

2887. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is disparity between availability of 3G spectrum across different circles;

(b) if so, how does Government propose to address this issue;

(c) in what manner operators are planned to be awarded 3G spectrum in each of the serviced areas;

(d) in what manner Government propose to make available more spectrum in these areas and by when; and

(e) by what time frame all the circles will have 60MHz of 3G spectrum available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An MOU has been signed between Department of Telecom and Ministry of Defence (MOD). MOD will release 3G spectrum in a phased manner in a span of 3 Years from signing of

the MOU between Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and Ministry of Defence.

(c) The operators shall be awarded 3G spectrum through auction.

(d) and (e) Defence will be provided alternate Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) network to vacate spectrum. This will take 3 years from signing of MOU as given in (b) above.

Auction of 2G spectrum

2888. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Spectrum Committee have recommended auctioning of 2G spectrum and many of its members who were earlier against auctioning have now changed their stand and recommended auctioning of the 2G spectrum;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that GSM operators are entitled to 6.2 MHz of mandated spectrum as per licence conditions; and

(d) if so, how does Government ensure that some of the operators who have got 4.4 MHz as the initials start up spectrum at least get the mandated spectrum of 6.2 MHz before the 2G spectrum is put to auction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The Spectrum Committee have made several recommendations including auction of 2G spectrum. The Government has referred to TRAI on 7th July, 2009 for seeking recommendations on the Report.

(c) No, Sir. As per service licence condition, the GSM operators are entitled to initial/start up spectrum up to 4.4 + 4.4 MHz subject to its availability. Additional spectrum upto 6.2 + 6.2 MHz may be considered for allocation, subject to availability, after ensuring optimal and efficient utilization of the already allocated spectrum taking into account all types of traffic and guidelines/criteria prescribed from time to time.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Order of WPC wing

2889. SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that WPC wing of DOT had issued an order dated 1st February, 2002 stating that the additional spectrum of 1.8 MHz beyond 6.2 MHz would be assigned only in 1800 MHz band;